LAUDATO SI' – A Season of Creation - September 1st – October 4th

(Below is taken from CWL Spiritual Development Chair, Pat Darling)

September 1st each year is celebrated by the Christian family as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and it is the beginning of the Season of Creation, which concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4th. During these five weeks, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home. We have an opportunity to join.

Pope Francis, in his message on World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation reflected on the 2020 theme for the Season of Creation: Jubilee for the Earth, chosen by the ecumenical family for the celebration. He noted that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day and that jubilee within the context of Holy Scriptures is a sacred time to remember, return, rest, restore and rejoice.

You shall thus hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim a release throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you' (Lev 25:10).

The full text of Pope Francis' message is available at Zenit.org::

https://zenit.org/2020/09/01/pope-francis-message-for-world-day-of-prayer-for-care-of-creation-2/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20World%20Was%20Made%20to%20Communicate%20the%20Glory%20of%20God%20Says%20Pope%20Francis%201598973461%20ZNP&utm_content=The%20World%20Was%20Made%20to%20Communicate%20the%20Glory%20of%20God%20Says%20Pope%20Francis%201598973461%20ZNP+CID_4c7f5749b33a9204f2dfbefe581472fe&utm_source=Editions&utm_term=--if%20mso%20endif----if%20mso%20----%20--%20endif--

In his homily for September 1st Mass, from St. Joseph's Church in Tahsis, Bishop Gary Gordon said that "the great work of Christ Jesus, is fundamentally to restore all things disfigured by sin and this is why our Holy Father wrote the encyclical Laudato Si'. He wanted to show us and to teach us with the mind of Christ, in this present age, that we are related. We are also related to every aspect of creation and we are in an interconnected world. Jesus restores a person who is unwell... This is one of the great works of the church and we are always invited to ask: "How do we act to create a restorative justice to bring back the imprint of God on Creation, a world that we inhabit and count on for the air we breathe and the water we drink? What is essential and crucial are right relations in our families, with our Creator God, with the earth and the peoples of the earth."

We are invited to reflect on our responsibility to care for the world that God has made. In his encyclical Laudato Si', Pope Francis calls on us all to make simple daily gestures to care for the world's poorest people, for future generations and for the earth, our common home. This is an opportunity to live wisely, think deeply and love generously.

There are numerous resources available on-line related to the Season of Creation and for the study of Laudato Si'. I have included as an attachment a list which I prepared for our Diocesan Executive and Presidents when we met by Zoom last week. Two additional resources:

Season of Creation Global Ecumenical Online Prayer Service:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pbz0YZJVNI&link_id=7&can_id=27a7064af93fc32b4486f42d2f5f0a4e&source=email-test-6135&email_referrer=email_907170&email_subject=coming-together-now-with-christians-around-the-world

The text of the service is in the Celebration Guide on www.seasonofcreation.org

Novena to St. Francis for a world under threat, based on the Canticle of the Sun. Beautiful video reflections. The text can be downloaded and printed into a booklet.

https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/Novena-to-St-Francis

As we pray in a special way this month for the Care of our Common home, included prayers for our earth, as found on the Archdiocese of Toronto website and with the Faithful Companion of Jesus Sisters, are noted here below:

https://www.archtoronto.org/laudatosi/Pages/Prayers.aspx

https://www.fcjsisters.org/news/marking-laudato-si-week/